

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03076 300637Z

60

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /071 W

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R 291237Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9932

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 3076

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EC

SUBJECT: FORMER MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES JARRIN RETURNING TO
ECUADOR

1. FORMER MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES GUSTAVO JARRIN, THE ARCHITECT OF ECUADOR'S NATIONALISTIC PETROLEUM POLICIES AND THE FORCE BEHIND ECUADOR'S ENTRY INTO OPEC, IS ALLEGEDLY RETURNING TO ECUADOR TO BE PLACED AT THE "DISPOSITION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE"--WHICH NORMALLY IS A PRELUDE TO RETIREMENT FROM THE ARMED FORCES. JARRIN'S RETURN WAS REPORTED ONLY IN THE QUITO DIALY "EL TIEMPO," CITING "OFFICIAL SOURCES." THE SOURCE DESCRIBED JARRIN'S TRANSFER AS NORMAL ARMED FORCES PROCEDURE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, JARRIN IS DUE TO RETURN THE FIRST WEEK IN MAY.

2. COMMENT: ADMIRAL JARRIN HAS BEEN NAVAL ATTACHE IN LONDON SINCE MID-1974, WHEN THEN PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA REMOVED HIM FROM HIS MINISTRY POST AFTER THE DISASTROUS LACK OF BIDDING BY FOREIGN FIRMS FOR SEVERAL ORIENTE CONCESSIONS (A LACK DEFINITELY RESULTING FROM THE HARSH TERMS JARRIN HAD FIXED FOR SUCH VENTURES). HIS RETURN TO ECUADOR HAS BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME. THE "DISPOSITION" STATUS WILL ALLOW SOME SIX MONTHS TO FIND A JOB WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES OR MANDATORY RETIREMENT. WE ASSUME THAT ADMIRAL POVEDA HAS
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PAGE 02 QUITO 03076 300637Z

ORDERED JARRIN'S RETIREMENT TO CURTAIL JARRIN'S POSSIBLE

INFLUENCE IN THE MILITARY. HOWEVER, JARRIN WILL STILL HAVE
CONSIDERABLE FOLLOWING AMONG LEFTIST GROUPS AND CERTAIN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PARTICULARLY HIS PROTEGE, THE CURRENT
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES RENE VARGAS, AND THUS MAY YET
BE ABLE TO EXERCISE SOME INFLUENCE IN THE CURRENT GOE
NEGOTIATIONS WITH TEXACO-GULF.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUITO03076
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0985
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976047/aaaaafph.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMER MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES JARRIN RETURNING TO ECUADOR
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, PINT, EC, (JARRIN, GUSTAVO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006